

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 3, 1999

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 7, 1999

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 21, 1999

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 6, 1999

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 571**

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**Introduced by Senator Alarcon**  
**(Principal coauthor: Senator Rainey)**  
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Alquist)

February 23, 1999

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An act to amend Section 18735 of the Education Code, relating to family literacy, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 571, as amended, Alarcon. Families for Literacy Program.

Existing law establishes the Families for Literacy Program to provide funding for eligible public libraries with the purpose of preventing illiteracy through coordinated literacy and preliteracy services to families by providing reading preparation services for young children in public library settings, instructing parents in reading to their children, and by providing technical assistance, parent support, and any necessary resources and materials.

This bill would provide that, as a principal component, the program may provide training or assistance for parents who

have no or minimal reading skills to enable them to learn to read so that they will be able to help their children learn to read, including services specifically designed for parents for whom English is not their primary language.

This bill would provide that the program, in designing or updating its program content, may take into consideration the literacy requirements for children in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, and may provide a program that will facilitate and prepare children for a successful transition into formal education.

This bill would appropriate ~~\$750,000~~ \$375,000 from the General Fund to the California State Library for purposes of the Families for Literacy Program.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote:  $\frac{2}{3}$ . Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 18735 of the Education Code is  
2 amended to read:

3 18735. (a) There is hereby created the Families for  
4 Literacy Program, a library services program with the  
5 purpose of preventing illiteracy through coordinated  
6 literacy and preliteracy services to families that include  
7 illiterate adults and young children. The program shall  
8 provide reading preparation services for young children  
9 in public library settings and shall instruct parents in  
10 reading to their children. In addition, the program shall  
11 provide technical assistance, parent support, and any  
12 resources and materials necessary for its implementation.

13 (b) The Families for Literacy Program may have as a  
14 principal component the provision of training or  
15 assistance for parents who have no or minimal reading  
16 skills, to enable them to learn to read so that they will be  
17 able to help their children learn to read. This component  
18 may also include services specifically designed for parents  
19 for whom English is not their primary language.



(c) In designing or updating its program content, the Families for Literacy Program may take into consideration the literacy requirements for children in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, and may provide a program that will facilitate and prepare children for a successful transition into formal education.

SEC. 2. The sum of ~~seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000)~~ *three hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$375,000)* is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the California State Library for purposes of the Families for Literacy Program created by Section 18735 of the Education Code.

SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

In order to improve the literacy skills of parents to enable them to assist in their children's education and thereby enhance the welfare of these families, it is necessary for this act to take effect immediately.

